

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 00610 071811Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 DODE-00
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /056 W
-----089910 071814Z /46
R 071430Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3474
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ
OSD/ISA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 0610

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL
SUBJECT: VISIT OF SURINAM DEFENSE MINISTER TO WASHINGTON

1. SURINAM ACTING DEFENSE MINISTER EDDY HOOST HAS INFORMED AMBASSADOR THAT HE INTENDS TO VISIT WASHINGTON IN SEPTEMBER FOR PURPOSE OF CONTACT WITH INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD (IADB) IN CONNECTION WITH PROPOSED SURINAM PARTICIPATION IN IADB. HOOST SAID THAT HE WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY COL. YNGW ELSTAK, COMMANDER OF SURINAM ARMED FORCES.

2. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT HOOST IS NOT ACTUALLY "MINISTER OF DEFENSE" SINCE THERE IS OFFICIALLY NO DEFENSE MINISTRY IN SURINAM AS YET. UPON INDEPENDENCE, RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEFENSE MATTERS WAS ADDED TO HOOST'S PRIMARY DUTIES AS MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND POLICE. A NUCLEUS OF A DEFENSE MINISTRY STAFF HAS BEEN SET UP, AND IT MAY BE ANTICIPATED THAT A REGULAR MINISTER OF DEFENSE WILL BE APPOINTED AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR THIS FALL. HOOST IS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONALISTIC REPUBLICAN PARTY (PNR), THE RELATIVELY LEFTIST JUNIOR PARTNER IN THE GOVERNMENT COALITION UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
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EDDY BRUMA. HOOST HIMSELF, HOWEVER, IS CONSIDERED CLOSE TO PRIME MINISTER ARRON IN POLITICAL OUTLOOK AND HAS BEEN FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE WITH THE U.S. HE IS A LAWYER BY PROFESSION AND IS KNOWN FOR HIS EXPERT KNOWLEDGE OF SURINAM HISTORY.

3. WHILE HOOST'S PRIMARY PURPOSE MAY BE MEMBERSHIP IN

IADB, THIS EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON DESERVES AND SHOULD BE LOOKED UPON AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ATTENTION BY DEPARTMENTS OF DEFENSE AND STATE. IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR U.S. INTERESTS FOR HIM TO BE RECEIVED AND PERHAPS HOSTED AT LUNCH BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. WE ALSO RECOMMEND THAT HE BE INVITED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR A BRIEFING ON U.S. POLICY TOWARDS THE CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA WITH JOINT PARTICIPATION BY ARA AND PM. IT WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL FOR COL. ELSTAK TO BE RECEIVED BY THE CHIEF OF STAFF USA, OR OTHER APPROPRIATE MILITARY OFFICER.

4. IN EMBASSY'S VIEW, ATTITUDE TOWARDS THIS VISIT SHOULD BE ONE OF COURTESY, INTEREST AND BROAD EXPOSITION OF U.S. POLICIES. U.S. POLICY DOES NOT CALL FOR MILITARY INVOLVEMENT WITH SURINAM OR MILITARY ASSISTANCE BEYOND MINOR HELP IN OBTAINING SMALL ARMS AND SIMILAR ITEMS ON COMMERCIAL TERMS. THOUGH SMALL AND LACKING INFLUENCE, SURINAM IS A FREE COUNTRY WITH A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT AND A STRONG RECORD OF SUPPORT FOR THE SAME FUNDAMENTAL VALUES AS THE U.S., AND PROPER TREATMENT OF ONE OF ITS CABINET MEMBERS WILL PAY DIVIDENDS.

5. EMBASSY HAS ASKED FOR AND WILL REPORT AS SOON AS RECEIVED DETAILS ON TIME AND TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS FOR
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HOOST TRIP TO WASHINGTON.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: VISITS, MILITARY PLANS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: MPOL, PN, US, IADB, (HOOST, EDDY)
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